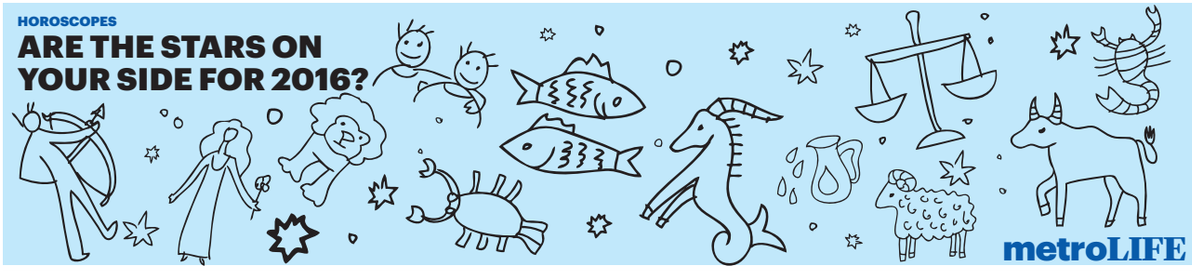

SEAMUS O'REGAN

Liberal MP enters rehab for 'alcohol-free lifestyle'

metroNEWS

Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016 High -11°C/Low -16°C Mainly sunny

LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

64 KILLED IN 2015

Deadliest year on Toronto roads in more than a decade spurs pedestrian advocates to call for safer streets

metroNEWS

Shelters face test

HOMELESS

City centres respond to extreme cold weather alert by opening 24-7

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

This week's frigid temperatures will be the first test of the city's expanded 24-hour shelter service.

Toronto's chief medical health officer issued the first extreme cold weather alert of the season over the weekend, as Environment Canada forecasted temperatures to plunge to below -15 C on Sunday and Monday.

As a result, the city is required to open additional shelters and warming centres.

Two drop-in centres — Margaret's Toronto East and St. Felix Centre — will be open 24-7 for the entire months of January and February. City council approved the additional services in November, offering the city's homeless population a place to shelter themselves from winter weather.

2

The city's public health system came under intense scrutiny last winter when two men died outside during a cold spell.

At Margaret's, 50 beds are available for anyone seeking refuge from the cold. The centre has been home to about 25 people since New Year's, but executive director Diane Walter expects demand will go up as temperatures go down.

One homeless man at the drop-in, who identified himself only as "Al," was adamant the city needs to do more for residents with no fixed address.

"Last year they opened after two or three extreme cold weather alerts — it was pretty bad," he said, as he and a handful of others waited for the afternoon cleaning to end so they could enter the drop-in at Dundas and Sherbourne streets.

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Judge rules Bill Cosby's wife, Camille, must testify in civil case against him.

Education initiative invites content

TECHNOLOGY

Local project gives solar tablets to youth in need

Sanam Islam
Metro | Toronto

When it comes to helping others around the world, most people open up their wallets.

But a local non-profit called The Rumie Initiative is offering a way to help vulnerable children simply by donating time.

Rumie provides free digital educational content to underprivileged children in 11 countries through preloaded, solar-powered tablets.

But in October, after facing a shortage of content for its new Syria campaign, the non-profit opened up an online cloud platform that allows anyone to submit high-quality educational content that can be used by the millions of Syrian refugees living in camps.

The information is then loaded on Rumie tablets and distributed to those in need.

"The fact that we're able to say you can give your money, but you can also give your time, is something that's kind of novel," said Rumie founder Tariq Fancy. "I think it's exciting, and volunteering online will only increase in the next several years."

Fancy, born to Kenyan immigrants of South Asian heritage, said he's always been passionate about helping those in the developing world. So much so that the 37-year-old gave up a lucrative career as an investment banker on Wall Street to return to Toronto and start Rumie two years ago.

In addition to putting his savings into the initiative, his degree in international development also came in handy when developing a strategy.

"Underprivileged children are underperforming because there are barriers to education," Fancy said. "By using tablets, we're providing education in way that's cheaper, faster and more efficient."

It also appears to be more effective.

"We've heard from our partners that kids are far more engaged than with paper alternatives. They're excited to use technology they've often never seen," Fancy says.

Each tablet costs $50 to produce, and, to date, Rumie has distributed thousands of them all over the world, Fancy said.

He says he hopes to expand the program to more places, such as Jordan and Turkey, in the near future.

By using tablets, we're providing education in a way that's cheaper, faster and more efficient.
Tariq Fancy

Syrian refugees and children in South Africa have used Rumie's solar-powered tablets. CONTRIBUTED

ON THE WEB

For details on getting involved with the Rumie Initiative's cloud project, visit rumie.org.

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Stephanie Warren, the mother who abandoned "Baby Angelica" in Toronto in 2008, was stabbed to death on New Year's Eve. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Baby Angelica's mom murdered in Jamaica

STEPHANIE WARREN

Husband held in custody for questioning in her death

The mother of "Baby Angelica," the infant found abandoned in a Toronto parking garage stairwell in 2008, has been killed in Jamaica. Her husband, who was criminally convicted of abandoning the baby, is in custody, a seemingly violent conclusion to a parenting saga from hell.

With the clock hands approaching midnight and a New Year on the horizon, 39-year-old Stephanie Warren of Toronto, mother to "Baby Angelica," was stabbed to death — allegedly by her Jamaican husband, Alphonso Warren, according to the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

The couple is infamous for having repeatedly faced allegations of mistreating their children in Canada and abroad. The mummified remains of a later child of the couple, a two-year-old known as "Baby Joshua," were found in 2012, zipped inside a suitcase in the Warrens' inner-city Kingston, Jamaica, home.

BACKGROUND

The Warrens were charged with child abandonment after "Baby Angelica" was found in a garage stairwell. Their other children were taken into custody and Angelica was later adopted.

Jamaican police were called to the couple's apartment around 11:20 p.m. this New Year's Eve to investigate a domestic dispute.

It was around that time Thursday night that Stephanie Warren was stabbed with a knife, according to a Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) press release. She was later pronounced dead at a hospital. Alphonso Warren remains in custody for questioning.

The police investigation is ongoing.

A JCF communications official confirmed to the Star on Sunday that the couple are the same Warrens who were arrested in Jan. 15, 2012, after the decomposing body of "Baby Joshua" was found in their home. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SYRIA

Activist honoured for human rights work

When Ghuna Bdiwi recently received the International Centre for Human Rights award, it almost didn't feel right.

"I'm nothing compared to rights activists who are living inside Syria," said the PhD candidate at York University's Osgoode Hall Law School.

"They are risking their lives everyday to uphold human rights in a hostile environment. They deserve it better than me."

The annual award recognizes activists fighting for freedom and the rule of law in Middle Eastern countries.

> **What started as a revolution was quickly becoming an actual war.**
> Ghuna Bdiwi

Born and raised in Syria, Bdiwi was working as a commercial lawyer in her native country when the uprising started in 2011. But the rapid deterioration of people's basic civil rights spurred her into action.

She co-founded a consortium of Syrian lawyers to help defend the rights of political detainees and activists. Many of the cases they dealt with involved torture and abuse.

"There was a lot of violation of rights, lots of crimes against humanity," she said. "What started as a revolution was quickly becoming an actual war."

That's when she realized it was too dangerous to stay. In 2012, she moved to Toronto, where she's continued to advocate for the rights of civilians inside Syria.

She remains optimistic about the "return of a Syria that's a free, secular and civilized society."

Bdiwi dedicated her award to the civil rights activists still working inside Syria.

"I just pray for them to stay safe and alive," she said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

York PhD candidate Ghuna Bdiwi has been recognized for her work in defending civil rights in Syria. CONTRIBUTED

THE COMFORT ZONE

Club suing police for 'abuse of power'

The Comfort Zone, an after-hours music club, is suing the Toronto Police Services Board and former chief Bill Blair for $23 million, alleging "abuse of power" and claiming police tried to push the club out of business.

In its statement of claim, the club alleges that police have been targeting it since January 2008, when 26-year-old Adam Fazio died in his home of an overdose.

In their statement of defence, the defendants deny the "inflammatory" allegations of "malice and misconduct" and request that the lawsuit be dismissed.

Toronto police had obtained information that Fazio visited the Comfort Zone hours before he died, prompting them to "investigate alleged … criminal activity," according to the statement of defence. Police staged an undercover operation — Project White Rabbit — at the club on March 16, 2008, charging 33 patrons, including five staff members, after a 6:30 a.m. raid that netted $35,000 in cash and quantities of GHB, cocaine, heroin and ecstasy that police valued at $30,000.

No criminal charges were laid against management or the club itself.

The lawsuit alleges that officers destroyed video surveillance equipment and electronics, and kept scores of patrons and staff handcuffed for up to five hours.

None of the claims contained in the lawsuit have been proven in court.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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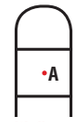

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Humans of Toronto by K. Omar

"Less is more. I truly believe that you just feel freer with less stuff. You have more space. Keep it simple. It also helps to embrace the little luxuries like candles. I have one in every room and I use them regularly. Even in the kitchen when I'm cooking and listening to music. Especially as the evening darkens earlier.

Humans of Toronto is K. Omar's social photography project aimed at photographing and talking to people in the city. Selections from her work feature weekly in Metro. See more at Humans_of_Toronto on Instagram.

Pedestrians and cars move through the intersection of Bathurst Street and Eglinton Avenue, where a 22-year-old woman was struck and killed in November. **The year 2015 was the worst one for traffic fatalities in Toronto in more than a decade.** LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Getting serious about road safety

TRAFFIC

Officials vow action after deadliest year since 2004

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

In the wake of the deadliest year on local roads in more than a decade, pedestrian advocates say it's time for the city to accept that human lives are worth more than convenient car commutes.

A total of 64 people — drivers, passengers, pedestrians and cyclists — died on Toronto's streets last year, the highest number of traffic-related fatalities since 2004. Most of those killed were pedestrians, including a 63-year-old man struck in a hit-and-run on the Danforth on New Year's Eve.

A host of pedestrian proponents in Toronto believe the numbers show that the government's focus on fighting gridlock has left other road users behind.

"The safety of vulnerable road users should always be prioritized," said Walk Toronto's Michael Black. "Unfortunately, our current and previous mayors have tended to pursue a reverse course, skewing the balance in favour of relieving vehicular congestion on Toronto's streets."

As an example, lawyer Albert Koehl noted the majority of fatal pedestrian collisions occur on major arterial roads designed for cars, where crosswalks are few and far between and speed limits are high.

"We need to be willing to trade off high motor speeds for human lives," said Koehl, who's pushed the city to lower speed limits.

In a statement to Metro, Mayor John Tory called last year's road deaths "tragic and unacceptable," and promised a revised road safety plan for 2016.

"We all have to take responsibility for making sure these numbers drop dramatically next year," the mayor said.

There's no "silver bullet" for road safety, said Stephen Buckley, the city's general manager of transportation. Instead, he said, staff are poring over data, identifying problem intersections and figuring out which interventions or education programs will get results.

"We want to take a step back, de-politicize what we're doing and craft what we think is the best strategy going forward," Buckley said.

COMPARISON

Toronto's streets still safe, officials say

Despite the high number of traffic-related fatalities in 2015, Stephen Buckley, the city's general manager of transportation, insisted Toronto's streets are still safe.

The 64 deaths on Toronto's roads last year equate with about 2.4 fatalities per 100,000 residents, Buckley said, a stat he called "off-the-chart low." In New York in 2010, the rate was 3.3 deaths per 100,000 residents. "Toronto is still one of the safest cities in terms of traffic in North America," Buckley said.

EMPLOYMENT

Homeless get help to get hired

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

A new initiative is helping youth in Toronto go from homeless to hired.

HireUp launched late last year as a portal connecting employers across the country with youth who've experienced homelessness.

Steady employment is one of many ways to address housing problems, which are the main cause of homelessness, said Lesley McMillan, HireUp's program manager.

HireUp has partnered with nearly 20 youth organizations to help homeless youth find work. In Toronto, the company collaborates with Covenant House Toronto and Eva's Initiatives.

Companies such as Home Depot, Nordstrom and NEI Investments have signed up to offer entry-level jobs to homeless youth. Jobs could range from sales and retail to warehouse works and logistics.

McMillan said one of many challenges homeless youth — aged 16 to 24 — face while seeking employment is lack of education and experience. "A lot of them haven't even completed high school," she said.

And even if they have the skills, she said, homeless youth also struggle with the stigma of having no fixed address.

In addition to helping homeless youth find a job, McMillan said HireUp also provides training and guidance to help them stay employed.

ADVERTISING ADVERTISING

Smokers Switch to Vaping for New Year's Resolution

Toronto retailer of e-cigarettes and vape products hosts special 'New Year's Resolution' event to assist smokers making the transition to vaping. (Jan 2-16)

A larger number of smokers are looking to switch to vaping in 2016. This coincides with a Aug 2015 British study by Public Health England concluding that the current best estimate is that e-cigarettes are around 95% less harmful than smoking.

For many first time vapers picking the right device and sifting through the hundreds of options available on the market is a daunting task. Specifically for this event 180 Smoke has created all inclusive starter kits, discounted up to 30%. These bundles include everything a beginner needs to make the transition, a month worth of e-juice, extra coils, batteries and the optimal beginner devices.

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- 3391 BLOOR ST W — ISLINGTON / BLOOR
- 657 YONGE STREET — YONGE / BLOOR

Tried-and-true tiki tradition

Shameful Tiki Room owner Rod Moore went to great lengths to ensure his Parkdale tiki bar was "authentic," even importing some décor from the Polynesian nation of Tonga. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

CULTURE

Theme based on 'fakeness' but is no joke to bar owner

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Rod Moore takes his tiki seriously.

The Vancouver native opened a branch of his Shameful Tiki Room in Toronto in November. And, unlike other tropical-themed watering holes, which he describes as "not authentic in the least," his rum-soaked bar is a painstakingly detailed homage to tiki pioneers like Don the Beachcomber and Trader Vic.

"It's not a joke. We're not putting sand on the floor," he said. "I wanted to bring the whole thing back exactly like it was back in the day."

The walls at Shameful Tiki are covered in hand-split bamboo, the puffer fish hanging from the ceiling are real, 1950s surf rock sounds from the speakers and the simplest cocktail on the menu has six ingredients.

It's enough to please a "snobby tiki enthusiast from southern California," Moore boasts.

Tiki culture dates back to 1930s California, when a fascination for Hawaii and Polynesia seeped into the American popular imagination.

"It was all half-naked women, warm water and palm trees," Moore says.

While it had little to do with actual Hawaiian culture, tiki became its own phenomenon centred on the restaurant industry. Bars like California-based Trader Vic's capitalized on the subculture by serving intricately garnished Mai Tais alongside pseudo-Polynesian dishes like crab Rangoon.

"It's based on fakeness but it's become its own thing," Moore says.

Shameful's Parkdale location (1378 Queen St. W.) is already doing a brisk business, Moore said, and he's looking forward to bringing more tiki culture — including a weekly go-go dancing night — to Toronto.

"I'm reaching into a big bag of history and saying, 'Wow, I can't believe they used to do that; let's do something similar here,'" he said.

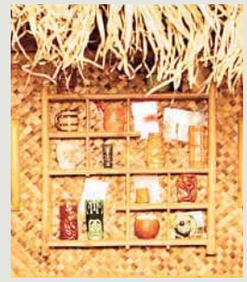
CURIOUS?

Rod Moore says tiki culture has a rich history. If you want to learn more about the phenomenon, he recommends reading The Book of Tiki by Sven Kirsten.

"He's widely acknowledged as the writer of all things tiki," Moore said.

BEGINNER'S GUIDE

Tiki totems
Shameful Tiki Room features two hand-carved tiki totems. In Polynesian tradition, tiki means "first man," and the carvings are depictions of the first human made by the gods. "Having actual tikis on hand is a big part of having proper tiki-bar décor," Moore said. "I like carving, and these two are ones I made. I like the idea of having that sort of personal connection."



Tiki mugs
Early tiki bars, like Don the Beachcomber in California, used to serve drinks in tiki mugs and let customers keep them. "Mugs are a huge part of the culture. Most tiki people collect mugs, and all good tiki establishments are expected to have a house mug for sale, which we do, and a display of classic mugs from other spots through the years," Moore said.

Zombie cocktail
"One of Don the Beachcomber's first creations, this recipe dates back to 1934 and helped put him on the map as the father of exotic cocktails and the tiki-bar ideology. Most places don't like the idea of such a strong drink made with 11 ingredients. Takes too long to make and the cost is too high," Moore said. "No one else in Toronto makes this drink as per the way it was supposed to be made ... except us!"

Postcards from Hawaii
"This is a visual touch we started in Vancouver," Moore said. "The cards are all relevant décor-wise but they also make a great conversation piece."
LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

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Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day is calling for a proper road network into the north.
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Vital winter roads source of concern

INFRASTRUCTURE

First Nations leaders zero in on impact of climate change

Wonky weather conditions are prompting aboriginal leaders to raise concerns about the impact of climate change on winter roads, which serve as lifelines for food, fuel and other necessities in several northern communities.

Isadore Day, the Ontario regional chief for the Assembly of First Nations, said the reliability of the northern winter road network is in jeopardy in his province.

"The winter roads have essentially become a way of life for the communities and now they can't rely on those winter roads," Day said, noting the network is used to offset the cost to bring essential goods to fly-in reserves by air.

The problem exemplifies why there was outcry from First Nations during the recent COP21 climate change summit in Paris, Day said. He said if people want access into the north, the only viable way now is to have a proper road network.

NDP indigenous affairs critic Charlie Angus, who represents a northern Ontario riding that includes a number of First Nations communities, said money needs to be invested in sustainable infrastructure.

There has been a long-standing push for permanent roads but climate change has made the issue much more pressing, he noted. "This is the front line and this is where the action needs to be taking place now."

There is "every evidence" Canada's Aboriginal Peoples are indeed on the front lines of climate change, Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett said in an interview with The Canadian Press.

"I think it is very worrying and I think that as we look not only to Ontario but to Manitoba, the proposals for the eastern road there, it is something that we are looking at and knowing that we've got to build the kind of resilient infrastructure that will deal with the changing climate."

"There will be no road if we don't have an opportunity to speak for ourselves on the issue of climate change."
Isadore Day, the Ontario regional chief for the Assembly of First Nations

The federal government is open to examining the impacts of the issue to allow for a long-term strategy to be developed, she added. THE CANADIAN PRESS

POLITICS

Liberal MP enters 'wellness program' to go alcohol-free

Newly elected Liberal MP and former broadcast journalist Seamus O'Regan says he has entered a wellness program to adopt "an alcohol-free lifestyle."

O'Regan, who hosted CTV's Canada AM for nearly a decade, announced from his Twitter account on Sunday that he had checked into the program over the holiday break.

"I've decided after consultation with family that I can be most effective as a Member of Parliament by adopting an alcohol free lifestyle," O'Regan tweeted. "To that end, over the holiday break, I have entered a wellness program."

O'Regan added that he will return to his duties as a MP for St. John's South-Mount Pearl before Parliament resumes later this month. He also noted that he'd have "more to say" on the matter in the future.

A spokeswoman for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau did not comment on the matter on Sunday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Seamus O'Regan
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

EUROPE

Idea of no borders crumbles

Since it opened in 2000, the Oresund bridge between Sweden and Denmark has been a towering symbol of European integration and hassle-free travel across borders.

On Monday, new travel restrictions imposed by Sweden to stem a record flow of migrants are transforming the bridge into a striking example of how national boundaries are re-emerging. A year of clampdowns on migration and terrorism has all but killed the idea of a borderless Europe where you could drive or train-hop from Spain to Norway without showing your passport.

"We're turning back the clock," said Andreas Onnerfors, an associate professor in intellectual history. "We're going back to a time when the bridge didn't exist," he said, referring to new ID checkpoints.

The move is meant to stop undocumented migrants from reaching Sweden, which reversed its open-door policy after receiving more than 160,000 asylum-seekers last year, mainly from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

It follows the reintroduction of border checks in Germany, Austria, France, Belgium and other countries in what's supposed to be a passport-free travel zone spanning 26 nations.

The moves are supposedly temporary, but are likely to be extended if Europe's migrant crisis continues in 2016.

"It's basically every country for itself now," said Mark Rhinard, an expert on the European Union.

It's a significant development that strikes at the heart of the EU project — the free movement of goods and people across borders.

Greece's coast guard says 217 migrants have been rescued by authorities since the start of 2016 in four separate incidents. The first casualty of the year, a boy, died on Saturday when an inflatable dinghy carrying 40 people was thrown into rocks off the Greek island of Agathonisi. The others were rescued, including a woman who had been thrown at sea during the crash.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clampdowns on migration, terrorism have set back the EU project. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Armed protesters call out for militias

OREGON

Standoff is over local control of public land

The remote high desert of eastern Oregon became the latest flashpoint for anti-government sentiment as armed protesters occupied a national wildlife refuge to object to a prison sentence for local ranchers for burning federal land.

Ammon Bundy — the son of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, who was involved in a 2014 standoff with the government over grazing rights — was among the people at the headquarters of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. It was unclear how many people were taking part in the protests.

Ammon Bundy posted a video on his Facebook page asking for militia members to come help him. He said "this is not a time to stand down. It's a time to stand up and come to Harney County," where Burns is located.

Bundy and other militia members came to Burns last month, a small town 450 kilometres southeast of Portland, Ore. They were upset over the looming prison sentences for local ranchers Dwight and Steven Hammond. They went to the wildlife refuge Saturday following a rally to support the ranchers.

Dwight Hammond, 73, and Steven Hammond, 46, said they lit the fires on federal land in 2001 and 2006 to reduce the growth of invasive plants and protect their property from wildfires. The two were convicted of the arsons three years ago and served time — the father three months, the son one year. But a federal judge ruled in October that their terms were too short under U.S. minimum-sentencing law and ordered them back to prison for about four years each.

The decision generated controversy and is part of a decades-long dispute between some Westerners and the federal government over the use of public lands. Critics of the push for more local control have said the federal government should administer the public lands for the widest possible uses, including environmental and recreation.

In an interview posted on Facebook, Bundy said he and others are occupying a building at the refuge because "the people have been abused long enough." He said the group planned to stay indefinitely.

Dwight Hammond has said he and his son plan to report to prison Monday as ordered.

Harney County Sheriff Dave Ward said the armed protesters came under false pretenses. "These men came to Harney County claiming to be part of militia groups supporting local ranchers, when in reality these men had alternative motives to attempt to overthrow the county and federal government in hopes to spark a movement across the United States," he said in a statement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters march in support of an Oregon ranching family facing jail for arson. Family members have served time but a judge ruled the terms were too short and ordered them back to prison for about four years each. LES ZAITZ/THE OREGONIAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iranians protest against the execution of Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr, a Shiite cleric in Saudi Arabia. VAHID SALEMI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DIPLOMACY

Saudi Arabia cuts its ties with Iran

Saudi Arabia announced Sunday it was severing diplomatic relations with Shiite powerhouse Iran amid escalating tensions over the Sunni kingdom's execution of a prominent Shiite cleric.

The move came hours after protesters stormed and set fire to the Saudi Embassy in Tehran and followed harsh criticism by Iran's top leader of the Saudis' execution of Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr.

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said Iranian diplomatic personnel had 48 hours to leave his country and Saudi diplomatic staff in Iran were called home.

The mass execution of al-Nimr and 46 others — the largest in three and a half decades — laid bare the sectarian divisions gripping the region as demonstrators took to the streets from Bahrain to Pakistan in protest.

It also illustrated the kingdom's new aggressiveness under King Salman. During his reign, Saudi Arabia has led a coalition fighting Shiite rebels in Yemen and staunchly opposed regional Shiite power Iran, even as Tehran struck a nuclear deal with world powers.

Al-Nimr was a central figure in Arab Spring-inspired protests by Saudi Arabia's Shiite minority until his arrest in 2012.

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HUDSON'S BAY

Making it on social media

CONTENT CREATION

Lucrative for some, struggle for others

When online personality Essena O'Neill "quit" social media, she gained a wave of media coverage. The 19-year-old Australian said she earned close to $2,000 per post on her social-media channels without being a conventional celebrity.

South Korean singer Psy earned $5.9 million for his viral hit, Gangnam Style. The number of YouTube channels earning six figures is up 50 per cent from 2014, according to a company spokesman.

More people than ever are making a living online. How much are they banking — and how are they cashing in?

Essena O'Neill said she earned close to $2,000 per social-media post before she "quit" the platforms. ESSENA O'NEILL/INSTAGRAM

YOUTUBE: If you create your own content, you can become a YouTube partner and receive a small percentage of ad revenue from clips before your video or on in-video banners. **How much can you make?** James Dodds III of sketch comedy group TrueNuff.tv said he received about $1.57 per 1,000 views. But not all are so successful. Gaby Dunn of comedy channel Just Between Us, which has 500,000 subscribers, recently wrote they are "barely scraping by" and the money was "unpredictable" and "not enough to live."

VINE: The short-form video platform doesn't run ads like Youtube, but that hasn't stopped creators from earning six-figure salaries. Mainstream brands are increasingly turning to Vine stars for content creation to engage with users as naturally as possible. **How much can you make?** Cody Johns, who has 3.6 million followers and more than a billion Vine views, told Business Insider one video campaign can net him upward of $20,000. Rob Fishman, who co-founded digital-advertising group Niche, says the top creators can receive $50,000 for one six-second clip.

INSTAGRAM: Users can make money from gaining followings and offering that audience to advertisers. Typically, creators make money on the platform through product placement or being hired to garner publicity by posting event photos. **How much can you make?** Canadian style, fashion and travel blogger Ania Boniecka, who has just over 100,000 followers, said a single photo could net her $500. Anthony Danielle, co-founder of the Mobile Media Lab agency, has said more than 100,000 followers can net $700 to $900. More than 500,000 followers could be worth $2,000 to $3,000, and $4,000 is the most Instagrammers have been paid, says a Yahoo article.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ENERGY

Google offering solar tips

The company that lets you compare air fares and translate foreign languages online wants to make it easier to weigh the costs and benefits of installing solar panels on household rooftops.

Google is rolling out a new online service that quickly tallies up considerations of going solar and whether homeowners should consider buying or leasing photovoltaic panels costing thousands of dollars. Google's Project Sunroof combines the eye-in-the-sky images behind Google Earth with calculations on how much shade trees cast over a rooftop, data on local weather patterns, industry pricing and available subsidies to arrive at its bottom line.

Interested potential customers are referred to solar-panel installers for further follow-up, cutting their marketing costs, said Carl Elkin, the senior software engineer behind the service. "We at Google believe in solar energy. The solar industry needs our help," he said.

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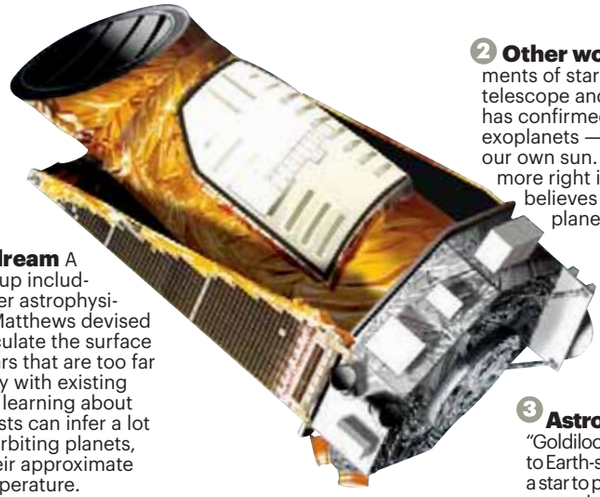
metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Monday, January 4, 2016

THE BIG THING: LIFE BEYOND EARTH

On planets right in our own Milky Way galaxy (which, to be fair, is pretty big at 9.5 hundred quadrillion kilometres across), there could be primordial soup brewing, life evolving, even whole societies developing and collapsing. We just don't know. But researchers are getting light-years closer. In a paper published this week in the journal Science Advances, a team including scientists from the University of British Columbia explains how they discovered a new, and more accurate, way to characterize extremely distant stars — including ones that may have orbiting planets hospitable to life. It's a step towards eventually meeting up with whomever or whatever may call those unknown worlds home. SOURCE: CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR



KEPLER SPACE OBSERVATORY (ARTIST RENDERING). NASA

1 **Distant dream** A research group including Vancouver astrophysicist Jaymie Matthews devised a way to calculate the surface gravity of stars that are too far away to study with existing methods. By learning about stars, scientists can infer a lot about their orbiting planets, including their approximate size and temperature.

2 **Other worlds** The project used measurements of star brightness from Canada's MOST telescope and NASA's Kepler spacecraft. Kepler has confirmed the existence of almost 2,000 exoplanets — planets that orbit stars other than our own sun. Preliminary findings point to billions more right in our own galaxy. Matthews says he believes alien life will be found on an exoplanet within 20 years.

3 **Astronomers' jackpot** The ultimate find is a "Goldilocks planet" — not too hot, not too cold, close to Earth-sized and just about the right distance from a star to possibly harbour liquid water. Kepler has spotted a handful of these cosy worlds so far.

Let's make 2016 the year of #payingforstuff

TORY'S TORONTO

Matt Elliott

Say it, and then say it louder.

Make up banners.

Put it on a T-shirt.

Hell, we should probably even hashtag the thing. Because everyone — and I mean everyone — has to get the message that 2016 at Toronto City Hall needs to be the year of #payingforstuff.

It's time for real talk on what it costs to run a big city.

I've been banging this drum for years, constantly urging the mayor and councillors to acknowledge that the improvements Toronto needs for transit, affordable housing and other city programs cannot be paid for through existing city revenues.

It's time for real talk about what it costs to run a big city.

And though it's been a simple message, it's taken way too long for the wisdom of #payingforstuff to register in the minds of the people calling the shots.

But they're out of excuses. Toronto has now seen two successive mayors get swept into office with tough talk about keeping property-tax increases at or below inflation and eschewing new revenue tools. Paradoxically, both also promised to deliver expensive projects.

Both mayors failed.

First there was Rob Ford. He was fond of declaring that Toronto had a spending problem, not a revenue problem. He promised to deliver subways, subways, subways with no tax impact.

But after a couple of years shambling around city hall yelling about the cost of office supplies and commissioning reports on whether a private company would volunteer to pay for a subway extension, Ford eventually had to acknowledge the wisdom of #payingforstuff. He introduced a 1.6 per cent residential property-tax increase by 2016 to pay for the subways he wanted.

With John Tory it's the same story. He said he'd find money for his campaign promises while keeping property-tax increases at or below inflation.

But after a year of searching for, I'd guess, a monkey's paw that can grant wishes, Tory too had to pay tribute to the reality of #payingforstuff. A few weeks back, he announced he'd ask council to approve a 2.5 per cent residential property-tax increase to be phased in over five years.

The importance of this shouldn't be underplayed. Two consecutive conservative leaders, faced with the fiscal reality in Toronto, turned to #payingforstuff as a solution.

It's good news for Toronto. When politicians build strategies to get the money needed to pay for city projects, city projects actually get built.

But still, I fear there will be a major tendency for politicians to fall back into old habits — to embrace fantasy notions of funding anti-poverty strategies and parks-improvement plans by reducing the number of paper clips used in city offices.

I won't accept that kind of magical thinking in 2016. The mayor and councillors know the solution to a better city. It's #payingforstuff. It always was. Spread the word.

Matt Elliott lives and writes in Toronto. Follow him on Twitter @GraphicMatt

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

A new New Year's resolution: Enjoy exactly who we are

All will be well.

It's the title of a book of daily religious reflections Mum gave me a few years ago. I spent a while trying to read each meditation, but it's the title that has stuck.

Holidays, even among a large and loving family like mine, are not simple bliss. We had at least two minor dramas that I'm aware of, a new rescue dog with a penchant to nip at the kids, far too much kitchen time for my parents, elbow deep in dishes or a turkey, the general mayhem of a house packed with dozens, and hangovers.

I didn't see everyone I wanted to, or call everyone I should have. And each of my three siblings is juggling some confluence of life's stress: trying to find a new home in Vancouver that's big enough and just this side of affordable, while making a mark in a new job; training the Mexican rescue dog who looks like Dobby the house-elf (loveable, but unpredictable); going back to school as an adult and fretting over grades and debt.

Just before Christmas dinner, Dad stood up at the head of the table. Westwoods don't give each other gifts (we do secret Santa) — but everyone makes each other cards. It's a serious requirement. No store-bought allowed. This year, Dad didn't just make us cards — he wrote us poems. And then he performed them.

It's redundant to say no life (no holiday) is perfect.

One by one, eldest to youngest, he recited slant rhymes that captured our lives, at this moment. They were sweet, tinged with his offbeat humour.

He didn't gloss over our questionable histories, and noted I can "be goaded to debate fiercely on topics of gender" — a reference to a run-in we had when I was taking a gender theory class in university.

But each one ended on the same theme: Look how far you've come. And: You're doing just fine. Also: We love you.

It is pat to say nothing is simple. It's redundant to say no life (no holiday) is perfect. Still, every snag can come as a surprise. An inconvenience is never foreseen, even though every day holds one. And yet for many of us, when it's put into perspective via a poem written by your dad, life really is good.

The new year is often a time to reset what we want to be. But what if, instead of imagining who we want to be, we decided to enjoy exactly who we are, and where we are.

All will be well, the book says. And all is well, too.

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How do you choose the right RSP for you?

NEST EGG

Finding the right fit comes down to your knowledge and expectations

Michelle Williams

Thinking about opening a retirement savings plan? First you have to decide where and how you want to invest the money. ISTOCK

You're thinking about opening a retirement savings plan. That's a good thing. Aside from the obvious benefit of creating a nest egg for your retirement, you may also get a nice deduction on your upcoming tax return.

And the savings you put away can have several years of tax-deferred growth before you withdraw the money.

Many rookie investors think that once you decide how much to put into your RSP, you're done. However, you also have to decide where and how you want to invest the money — which vehicles and products to use.

"Once you're ready to invest, you have to decide on your RSP type," says Kurt Rosentreter, a financial advisor and chartered accountant. "One option is to explore the group plan that may be offered by your employer." This type of plan is sponsored by your employer, who may top up or match your contribution. "It's wise to take advantage of this because the employer's contribution is like free money."

An RSP is a "portable asset," says Kathleen Peace, partner and wealth advisor at Woodgate Financial Inc. and Investment Planning Counsel. "So if you leave your job, you can take it to any financial institution."

Another benefit is that you can arrange to have contributions automatically withdrawn from your pay, so you won't miss the money. But you may not be happy with the investment options your employer's plan offers. If you're looking for more control of your investments, another option is to set up an individual plan with your bank.

"In this case, you deposit your money into an RSP account and you can choose to buy the bank's financial products according to characteristics like your risk tolerance and your financial goals," explains Rosentreter.

For those interested in doing their own investing, "self-directed RSPs can be managed online. You can do this through most financial institutions," explains Peace. "This is an attractive option to the investor who wants to select and manage their investments themselves and pay minimal transaction fees."

Remember to take stock of your own goals and expectations before choosing an investment.

"How and where you invest should be aligned to your risk tolerance, time horizon, tax bracket, financial knowledge, return expectations, retirement goals and other factors," says Rosentreter.

Individual vs. spousal plan

When you contribute to an individual plan, you make the contribution and you get the benefit of the tax deduction. But sometimes it's worth considering a spousal or common-law RSP.

"Usually it's the higher-income earner making a contribution to their spouse's RSP," says wealth advisor Kathleen Peace.

"The higher-earning spouse gets the tax deduction but the lower-earning spouse owns the investment. When it comes time to withdraw funds from the RSP, the couple can better manage their taxes by income splitting, as long as the spouse's contribution has remained in the plan for at least three calendar years."

The decision to open a spousal RSP, says financial advisor Kurt Rosentreter, should take into account "your income-tax bracket today and in the future for you and your spouse, your investment strategy, and your overall retirement plan."

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HOROSCOPES

What's the year have in store? Take a look at the stars

Sally Brompton
For Metro Canada

Astrology forecasts for 2016

Aries (March 21 - April 20)
Mars, your ruler, moves into passionate Scorpio at the start of the year, making it impossible to deny your feelings. Whatever it is that moves you — emotionally, mentally, intellectually or even spiritually — that is what you must dedicate yourself to in 2016. But don't overdo it. Jupiter's retrograde phase from January to May warns you cannot charge at life at 100 miles per hour all the time. Make quality work your goal and get creative (write a book, record a song, launch a vlog) in April and August when the Sun's influence is at a peak, then sit back and enjoy the applause in the fall.

Taurus (April 21 - May 21)
A solar eclipse in the friendship area of your chart in March means you will be expanding your area of activity, discovering new places and meeting new people. Who knew you could be so adventurous! But there are old scores to settle as well and the influence of Mars in January and February, then again in June and July, will encourage you to assert yourself in one-to-one situations. Be blunt if you have to. Let loved ones and work colleagues know you will no longer dance to their tune — not because it's a bad tune but because you've got one of your own.

Gemini (May 22 - June 21)
Saturn and Uranus will pull you in opposite directions in 2016, Saturn trying to keep you tied to the past, Uranus trying to show you how wonderful the future could be if you have the courage to let go and go with the flow.

Mars in adventurous Sagittarius in August and September should tip the balance in Uranus' favour and come the close of the year you will be moving in a radical new direction. Relationship-wise you'll need a strong and steady partner to anchor your need for thrill-seeking in the real world of work and family and making ends met. A marvellous roller-coaster year!

Cancer (June 22 - July 23)
The solar eclipse in your fellow Water sign of Pisces on March 9 will encourage you to look further afield for things to inspire you. Even if you are one of those stay-at-home type Cancers you will want to travel this year, and your wanderlust will take you to some fantastic places where you meet some remarkable people. By the time of the second solar eclipse of the year, in September, you may have put down roots in a completely new environment. Alternatively, you can stay where you are and expand your awareness through books and study. The world of the mind is your playground.

Leo (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Mars, planet of action and ambition, moves through the most dynamic area of your chart from March to May and again through August and September and these are the best months by far to begin some kind of creative or artistic endeavour. Never doubt you have what it takes to be the biggest and the best. Never doubt you have the talent to see your name up in lights. Success will be all the more enjoyable, of course, if you can share it with someone special and Venus in the partnership area of your chart from mid-February to mid-March is sure to bring love into your life.

Virgo (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Jupiter's retrograde phase from January to May will in some way hold you back from realizing your dreams and it's inevitable you will feel frustrated. But when the planet of good fortune turns in your favour again there will be no stopping you and by the time of the solar eclipse in your sign on Sept. 1 your life will be transformed. It's likely you will come into money later in the year and you should use what you gain to enrich both yourself and those you are closest to emotionally and mentally. Virgo never stops learning. What will the next stage of your education be?

Libra (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Jupiter's move into your sign in early September will in some way or other reward you for the patience and commitment you have shown through the rest of the year. Libra may be the sign of the balance but sometimes it is hard for even you to keep your cool, especially when planet Uranus seems so determined to disrupt both your domestic arrangements and your relationships. But life is a learning experience and come December, when Jupiter really starts to shine, your ability to see both sides of every story will put you at a huge advantage. Be amazing, Libra!

Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Mars in your sign at the start of the year will endow you with a huge surge of energy and in both your career and your private life you will be making changes left, right and centre. Not only that but a second visit of Mars to your sign in June and July will give you a second bite of the cherry — and help you clear up some of the mess you made earlier in your headlong rush to be a success. The other big influence is Jupiter, which remains in the friendship area of your chart until September. It's there to remind you that you can't do it all on your own.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21):
Sagittarius and Saturn both begin with the letter S but there the similarity ends. Sags are carefree and love taking risks, while Saturn is cautious and not one to gamble. So, with Saturn in your sign throughout the year there is sure to be tension, but tension can be creative, and financially lucrative, if you plan ahead and accept the need to compromise. If you start the year slowly (by your standards at least) you can build up a head of steam that will make you unstoppable when Mars moves in your favour in August and September. For Sagittarius, there is no such word as "cannot."

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
Pluto in your sign will continue to change your life in subtle yet far-reaching ways and as early as Jan. 6, when Pluto joins with the Sun, then again on Feb. 6, when love planet Venus gets in on the act, your outlook, your lifestyle, indeed your very Capricorn DNA will undergo a transformation, though it may not seem that dramatic at the time. Where will this leave you? Energized and liberated, free to follow your own emotional and creative needs. You will still have responsibilities, of course, but they will no longer hold you back from fulfilling your limitless potential.

Aquarius (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
The lunar eclipse in your fellow Air sign of Libra on March 23 will sweep away restrictions and by the time a new moon in the same sign comes around at the start of October you will be on a completely new path through life and loving every moment of it. Not everyone will be as delighted as you though and some relationships will fall by the wayside, but it's your chance for a new beginning and you have no intention of letting it pass. Aquarius has as much right to shine as anyone else and you intend to dazzle and delight every chance you get.

Pisces (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)
Jupiter, planet of good fortune, stays in the partnership area of your chart until September, by which time you will be on excellent terms with people who can help you move closer to realizing your dreams, and as the solar eclipse on Sept. 1 brings one major project to a successful conclusion you will quickly move on to the next. Saturn's ongoing influence will find ways to remind you that only quality work counts, but you won't need much guidance. On every level — mental, emotional, professional and financial — you know a good thing when you see it: yourself!

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Financial health starts with you

PLANNING

Make it a resolution to take control of your money

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Canada

If you're one of the people who have been letting the other guy handle the money, I've got a strong cup of coffee here for you: Take a sniff. While it may seem easier to let buddy deal with the dollars, that'll only save you some short-term fighting.

In the long term, you might find your family's financial reins are knotted up pretty badly.

Some people are unwilling to do the daily discipline of good money management; they'd rather leave it to their mates to manage the minutiae.

Others don't want to know the mess they've made. And some — even smart, hard-working folks — just haven't figured out that not everything you want you can have right away.

You need a plan.

Whenever you abdicate responsibility for dealing with the day-to-day of your money, whether you say, "Oh (s)he's better with the details," or "I just don't have the time," you're giving away control of your wealth.

If you don't know what the hell is going on with your money, you shouldn't be surprised to wake up broke. And giving it away isn't just handing over the money management to your mate.

It's also letting someone else make your investment decisions, allowing someone else to tell you how much money you can afford to borrow, and letting yourself get pushed into decisions you aren't absolutely convinced are good for your long-term financial health.

You work hard for your money, so hard for it honey. Why won't you spend a little time paying attention to what you're doing with it? And what it's doing for you.

Money management may not be the most exciting part of your life; not everyone gets turned on counting up their coins.

No one gets wealthy by accident. Pay attention to your money.

But it beats the heck out of having to deal with the negative fallout of having not paid attention.

And, you know what? It doesn't take all that much time.

This week make a date to sit down with your mate and go over your money.

From how much you're spending on food (you do have a budget, right?), to when you expect to be debt free (and a debt repayment plan?), to when you'll need to update your will (please tell me you have a will!), the conversations you have will lay the foundation for sharing your wealth: your wealth of knowledge, your wealth of insight, your wealth of experience.

If you have "people" who are managing your investments, insurance, estate plan, taxes… whatever, make an appointment to review how things sit.

Waiting for their once-a-year obligatory call isn't good enough.

And, for heaven's sake, stop thinking that those people have your best interests at heart.

They are in business to make money. They have bosses and sales targets and corporate expectations to meet.

If you don't have the time to take care of your money, why the dickens would they be interested in doing any more than the bare minimum to keep you as a client?

No one gets wealthy by accident. Pay attention to your money.

For more money advice, visit Gail's website at gailvazoxlade.com

This week, make a date with your partner to go over your finances. ISTOCK

SECOND CITY

Undoing anxiety in the spotlight

A decade ago, Cameron Algie couldn't imagine getting up on a stage, let alone performing improv comedy in front of an audience. Gripped by anxiety, he scoffed when his therapist suggested he was naturally funny and might do well in an improv class at Second City Toronto.

"It seemed like the scariest thing to do," recalls the Cambridge, Ont., native. "Anxiety is all about anticipation and imagining all these scary things, but once I was there in the class, it really was scary but fun."

Algie went on to complete all five stages of the improv classes there and then studied at the conservatory level. Now he teaches Improv for Anxiety or Public Speaking at the Second City Training Centre in Toronto.

Group work and building social skills are also a focus of the centre's new class, Improv for Teens on the Autism Spectrum, which begins Jan. 9.

Instructor Cassie Moes, who pitched the idea for the class, learned how to work with people with special needs as a middle-school teacher. She also had experience teaching improv exercises for people with special needs and did respite care at Reach Child and Youth Development Society in Delta, B.C.

"As kids get older — kids who are on the spectrum — there's not a lot of programming and resources that's of good quality for them to explore different things," says the Vancouver native. "So I really wanted to offer a program where not only will they get the social element that improv really provides but they would also just get to learn some skills which they can apply in their day-to-day life."

Moes teaches improv classes for teens on the autism spectrum at Second City Training Centre. HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Algie says the biggest obstacle for students in the anxiety class is self-judgment. "When you stand in front of an audience, the audience is never judging you as harshly as you're judging you," says Algie. "If you make a little mistake onstage, the audience probably doesn't notice or care or think of it as a mistake. They probably laughed."

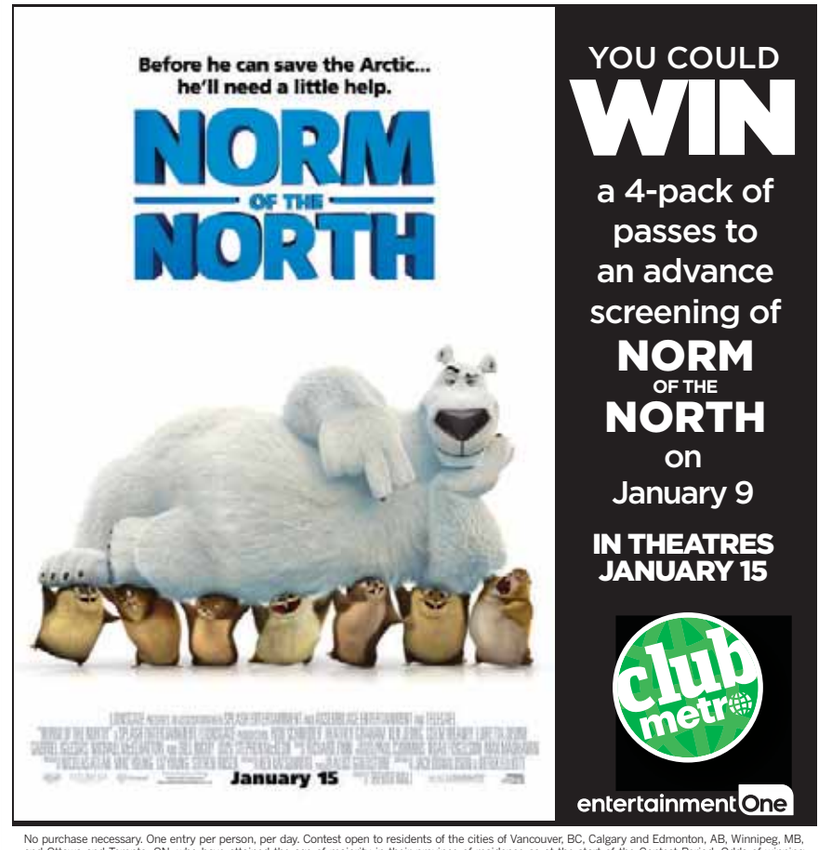
Moes says they tell students not to try to be funny.

"I always try to say, who you are and what you have and what you bring inherently is enough," she says. "You are protected by the framework of the game. The more you let yourself go, those are the people who have the most success, the people with no filter."

Algie and Moes say some anxiety alumni have gone on to perform in front of hundreds and even formed their own troupes.

"For a lot of people, public speaking is worse than death," says Moes. "So they're like, 'If I can stand on this stage and perform in front of 200 people, what else can't I do in my life?'"

The Improv for Teens on the Spectrum classes are for "high-functioning independent teens" ages 13 to 19. THE CANADIAN PRESS



No purchase necessary. One entry per person, per day. Contest open to residents of the cities of Vancouver, BC, Calgary and Edmonton, AB, Winnipeg, MB, and Ottawa and Toronto, ON, who have attained the age of majority in their province of residence as at the start of the Contest Period. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received in each city. Twenty (20) prizes are available to be won in each market, consisting of a 4-pack of passes to a screening of Norm of the North on Jan. 9, 2015. Approximate retail value of each prize is $50 CDN. Each selected entrant must correctly answer, unaided, a mathematical skill-testing question to be declared a winner. Contest Period opens at 12:01 am ET on Jan. 4, 2016 and closes at 11:59 pm ET on Jan. 7, 2016. To enter and for complete contest rules visit www.clubmetro.com

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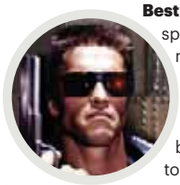
ROBOCOP V TERMINATOR

Which '80s cyborg wore it better?

RoboCop and The Terminator are two of the most iconic sci-fi films of the 1980s. Both are set in a post-apocalyptic world where man and machine merge in an unforgettable cyborg. The franchises even spawned a four-issue comic-book crossover by cartoonist Frank Miller in 1992. But head-to-(metallic)-head, which futuristic cyborg ruled the silver screen?

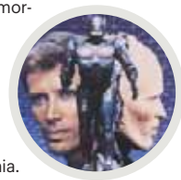
Best Mission In RoboCop, police officer Alex Murphy (played by Peter Weller) is killed by a gang of thugs, then revived and transformed by a mega-corporation into the ultimate (and shiniest) beat cop. In The Terminator, Arnold Schwarzenegger famously plays a cyborg assassin who travels back in time to stop the saviour of humanity. As far as missions go, that one's hard to top.
Winner: The Terminator

Best Outfit While the Terminator has snazzy wraparound shades and a punky leather jacket, RoboCop gets a chrome bodysuit with built-in weapons and sleek sound effects. **Winner:** RoboCop, obviously.



Best Setting The Terminator prowls the suburban sprawl of '80's L.A., while RoboCop patrols the mean streets of dystopian Detroit. **Winner:** Both look equally scary. This one's a draw.

Best Ride RoboCop's 1985 Ford Taurus may be the most ordinary supercar in movie history, though it did have an onboard computer (remember, this was back in the '80s). The Terminator drives an assortment of stolen cars, including a '70s-era Chevy Nova, which he plows through a police station.
Winner: RoboCop



Best Catchphrase RoboCop's two most memorable lines are his understated warning to evildoers ("Dead or alive, you're coming with me") and his ominous advice for Detroit's youth ("Stay out of trouble"). But neither had the cultural cachet of the Terminator's unstoppable "I'll be back" — Arnie even used it on the campaign trail for governor of California.
Winner: The Terminator, baby.

Whether you're a Robo-rooter or a member of Arnie's army, you can relive both movies in all their '80s glory this month on Hollywood Suite. Check out RoboCop and The Terminator back-to-back on January 12, uncut and commercial-free. Take advantage of Hollywood Suite's free preview, or sign up for only $6 (or less) a month. Hollywood Suite takes you back to the '70s, '80s, '90s and 2000s with hundreds of movies on 4 HDTV Channels, Hollywood Suite On Demand and the Hollywood Suite GO app. Learn more at hollywoodsuite.ca.

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Content Solutions

JOHANNA SCHNELLER **WHAT I'M WATCHING**

Grace in an unexpected place

Transparent creator Jill Soloway teases out the show's scenes that give viewers startling insight into the characters. CONTRIBUTED

THE SHOW: Transparent, Season 2, Episode 10 (Shomi)
THE MOMENT: The Embrace

Maura Pfefferman (Jeffrey Tambor), a 60-something transitioning, transgender woman, lies on a bed with Vicki (Anjelica Huston), who's had a double mastectomy, astride her.

"I don't know what to do," Maura whispers. Slowly, slowly, they begin to have sex.

The camera doesn't cut away.

It stays steadily on these two imperfect people.

So unaccustomed are we to seeing that, that at first it feels invasive, even merciless. But if you don't flinch, you'll realize that what you're witnessing is a moment of grace.

I'm so in love with this show I don't know where to begin.

To focus on a serious scene risks minimizing how slyly hysterical it is, how uncountable the witty lines and brilliant muttered asides, how effortlessly the actors throw them away.

You could watch Transparent for the laughs alone, and they would be smarter and more numerous than on any other show.

But creator Jill Soloway isn't content with that — she also gives us scenes of startling insight and intimacy, which she builds up to so skillfully that someone dancing with her reflection; or eating from a microwave, naked and alone in the dark; or hanging on the side of a pool, talking to her sister about sex, will make you gasp.

And when, in the last two episodes, Soloway brings together the many seemingly disparate strands she's been teasing out — well, if you were standing up, your knees would buckle.

Seriously, this show is a game-changer.

Nothing else comes close.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

DOCUMENTARY

Boston Marathon film celebrates spirit

America's marquee marathon is ready for its closeup.

Boston, the first feature-length documentary film about the Boston Marathon, is in the works. Its creators say the movie will go well beyond the 2013 bombings to retrace the iconic footrace's first steps in 1897.

"Over the years, the Boston Marathon has had so many extraordinary stories of people achieving and accomplishing things," said producer Megan Williams, an Oscar-nominated filmmaker. "It's like looking at cultural and social change over the last century through the lens of this major sporting event."

Two feature films (one starring Mark Wahlberg), a stage play and an HBO special also are in production, though they're all about the 2013 finish line attacks that killed three spectators and wounded more than 260 others.

No Boston documentary would be complete without the dark events of 2013. Boston, however, will focus less on the chaos than the comeback. The producers had 56 cameras along the course in 2014 for the marathon's first running since the bombings.

Director Jon Dunham said the city's determination to take back its namesake race will be a recurring theme in the movie, which was conceived before the attacks.

But the film will be a sort of highlights reel from the 120-year-old marathon, the nation's oldest. The Boston Athletic Association gave Dunham exclusive rights to its archive for the film.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

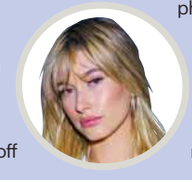
Meb Keflezighi wins the 118th Boston Marathon in 2014. Keflezighi was the first American man to win the race in 31 years. Boston is set to premiere in April 2017. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOSSIP BRIEFS

Camille Cosby must give deposition against Bill

A federal judge has denied a motion by Bill Cosby's wife to throw out a subpoena requiring her to give a deposition in a lawsuit brought by seven women who accuse the comedian of sexually assaulting them decades ago. The ruling issued Thursday by U.S. Judge Magistrate David Hennessey in Springfield, Mass., means Camille Cosby is scheduled to be deposed by lawyers for the women on Wednesday. In his 12-page decision, Hennessey said Camille Cosby failed to prove that she and her husband were protected by the state's marital disqualification law. He also rejected claims that the value of the testimony would be outweighed by the "undue burden" it would cause.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bieber locks lips with Hailey Baldwin at NYE bash

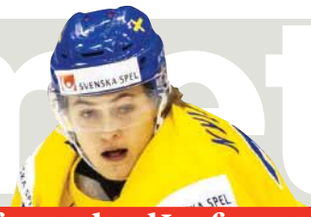


It looks like Justin Bieber is hoping to kick off 2016 by putting to rest those pesky dating rumours — like Kourtney Kardashian, or him trying to woo back Selena Gomez — because the Biebs rang in the New Year "sucking face" with additional rumoured girlfriend Hailey Baldwin at Richie Akiva's villa party in St. Barts.
NED EHRBAR/METRO

One Direction's Zayn Malik strikes a pose for Gigi Hadid

Speaking of pop stars' dating lives, exactly how close are former One Direction member Zayn Malik and Gigi Hadid getting? Close enough for her to post photos of his bare chest to Instagram. Oh, and there was an adorable kitten in the pic, too, so it's basically peak Internet. Hadid posted the black-and-white photo without comment, just a simple image of Malik's headless torso cuddling her beloved cat, Cleo. Fans easily recognized Malik by his tattoos.
NED EHRBAR/METRO

metro SPORTS



Swedish forward and Leafs prospect William Nylander will miss the rest of the world juniors with a suspected concussion

WORLD JUNIORS

Hockey Canada prez puts onus on players

Tom Renney came to the defence of Canada's coaching staff at the world junior hockey championship on Sunday.

The president and chief executive officer of Hockey Canada spoke a day after Canada dropped a 6-5 decision to Finland in the quarter-finals of the event in Helsinki, guaranteeing a sixth-place finish at the tournament. It is the lowest Canada has placed at the world juniors since 1998.

"I thought our team was very well-prepared, I thought we had as good a coaching staff at the competition as anyone," Renney said in a conference room at the team's hotel.

"There is a point in time where that transfer of responsibility goes from the coach to the player."

Head coach Dave Lowry's squad of under-20s struggled throughout the tournament with discipline on the ice. Canada took 10 minor penalties in a 5-2 loss to Sweden in the final game of the preliminary round before taking nine penalties in the quarter-final loss to Finland. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEMIFINALS

MONDAY
Sweden vs. Finland, 9 a.m.
Russia vs. United States, 1 p.m.

NHL

Bernier has wins to build on in new year

Maple Leafs goalie Jonathan Bernier realizes he still has plenty to prove.

But he can crack a tiny smile over the fact he's shown that much of the old Bernier is still there.

The old Bernier, the one who was nothing like the version that has just exited a difficult 2015 calendar year, surfaced in solid efforts over the past two games. With two consecutive wins, Bernier posted a save percentage of .950 or better for the first time in back-to-back starts since Dec. 6-9, 2014.

The 3-2 win at Pittsburgh Wednesday and 4-1 triumph over St. Louis at home on Saturday are promising but still small samples of the body of work Bernier needs to build as he pushes 2015 into the realm of distant memory.

It won't be easy.

"We believe in this group here, if we put the effort in, we can be in every game," said Bernier, whose overall record in 2015 marked the worst calendar year of his career — 9-30-7, .898 and 3.22. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Leafs swap minor-leaguers
The Maple Leafs made a minor-league trade on Sunday night, acquiring forward Jeremy Morin from the Chicago Blackhawks in exchange for forward Richard Panik.

The 24-year-old Morin has skated in 82 NHL games with the Blackhawks and Blue Jackets and has 10 goals and 22 points. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chelsea still a threat in middling Premier League
Chelsea signalled its intent to surge up the Premier League by crushing Crystal Palace 3-0 on Sunday in a stylish display in South London that had shades of last season's cruise to the championship.

Oscar, Willian and Diego Costa scored for Chelsea, which could still challenge for a Champions League spot after a dismal first half.

Rex comes back to bite Jets
Leave it to Rex Ryan to continue the New York Jets' playoff drought.

Ryan and the Buffalo Bills stopped the Jets from making the playoffs Sunday and gave the Pittsburgh Steelers the final spot in the AFC. The Bills beat the Jets 22-17, while Pittsburgh topped Cleveland 28-12. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Butler becomes the master vs. Raptors

Bulls swingman Jimmy Butler had just two points at halftime, but finished with 42 on Sunday. VAUGHN RIDLEY/GETTY IMAGES

NBA

Star forward reminiscent of 'him' in second-half outburst

When a Chicago Bull does something even the legendary Michael Jordan never did, it's probably going to be one of those nights.

After Jimmy Butler put on a one-half scoring binge never before done by a Bull, the Raptors could do little more than lament a 115-113 loss on Sunday.

Butler had 40 points in the second half alone — the most points in a half by a Chicago player in the 40-year history of the franchise.

DeMarre Carroll, Toronto's best perimeter defender and the guy who should have been matched with Butler all night, is still on a minutes-limit coming off a sore knee and was defiant after the game.

"I'm going to be quiet on what I really want to say," said Carroll, who played only 24 minutes and just 10 in the second half. "I take it on myself. I know I'm not all of the way there."

While Carroll was forced to watch, Butler played all 24 minutes in the second half, making 12 of 19 field goals, 10 of 11 foul shots and two three-pointers, including a dagger over Carroll with 30 seconds to go to put the Bulls up by one.

Butler downplayed the significance of his second-half output.

"I had no idea until somebody told me after the game," he said of Jordan's former record, 39 points in a half during a game in 1988. "I don't want to be compared to him because you see what he's done for this game."

Butler had 19 of his points in the fourth quarter, when the Bulls racked up 34.

"If we're serious about being a defensive team, we can't give up 34 points in the fourth quarter, you've got to put your foot down, put your foot on their neck and close it out," coach Dwane Casey said.

The Raptors were up two with 50 seconds left. Kyle Lowry and DeMar DeRozan both missed layups driving into the teeth of the Chicago defence in the final 30 seconds; off-balance looks that could have been better.

DeRozan also had a turnaround three at the buzzer that wouldn't go down.

"I thought I got a good look at the end for the three ... I thought it was good," DeRozan said after his 24-point night. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SUNDAY At ACC

115	113
BULLS	RAPTORS

NFL

Broncos, Panthers wrap up top seeds

Carolina closed out its remarkable season by wrapping up home-field advantage in the NFC. Denver turned to Peyton Manning to take advantage of New England's slip up in the AFC.

Carolina and Denver wrapped up the No. 1 playoff seeds in each conference by winning at home on the final day of the regular season on Sunday. Carolina routed Tampa Bay 38-10, while Denver held off San Diego 27-20 to win the AFC West.

New England will be No. 2 in the AFC after losing at Miami, while Arizona will have the other bye in the NFC despite getting routed 36-6 by Seattle.

Denver's win finally settled the AFC playoff picture. Cincinnati is the No. 3 seed and will host AFC North rival Pittsburgh in a wild-card game, while AFC South champion Houston is the No. 4 seed and will host Kansas City, winners of 10 straight games.

The NFC playoff picture wasn't to be fully settled until after the completion of Sunday night's game between Minnesota and Green Bay. Seattle's blowout win over the Cardinals means the Seahawks will avoid a trip to Lambeau Field to open the playoffs as long as the Packers and Vikings didn't finish in a tie. The winner between the Vikings and Packers will be the No. 3 seed.

Washington, which closed the season with its fourth straight win, is the fourth seed and will host the No. 5 seed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PLAYOFF TEAMS

AFC	NFC
1) Denver (12-4)	1) Carolina (15-1)
2) New England (12-4)	2) Arizona (13-3)
3) Cincinnati (12-4)	4) Washington (9-7)
4) Houston (9-7)	Others:
5) Kansas City (11-5)	Green Bay,
6) Pittsburgh (10-6)	Minnesota, Seattle (10-6)

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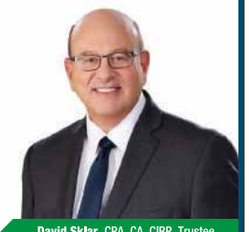
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RECIPE Sweet and Spicy Salmon

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Today is Ceri's birthday so we'll be eating cake, but you should totally make this. This recipe comes together so quickly and easily you have no excuse for not making a healthy dinner.

Ready in
Prep time: 25 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 3 Tbsp soy sauce
- 2 Tbsp honey
- 2 Tbsp sriracha
- 3 Tbsp water
- 4 salmon filets
- 2 tsp sesame seeds

Directions
1. Preheat the oven to 425 F.
2. In a small bowl whisk together the marinade ingredients.
3. Place the salmon filets on a rimmed baking sheet.
4. Spoon the marinade on top of the salmon and bake it for 15 minutes.
5. Serve with rice and greens and a sprinkling of sesame seeds.

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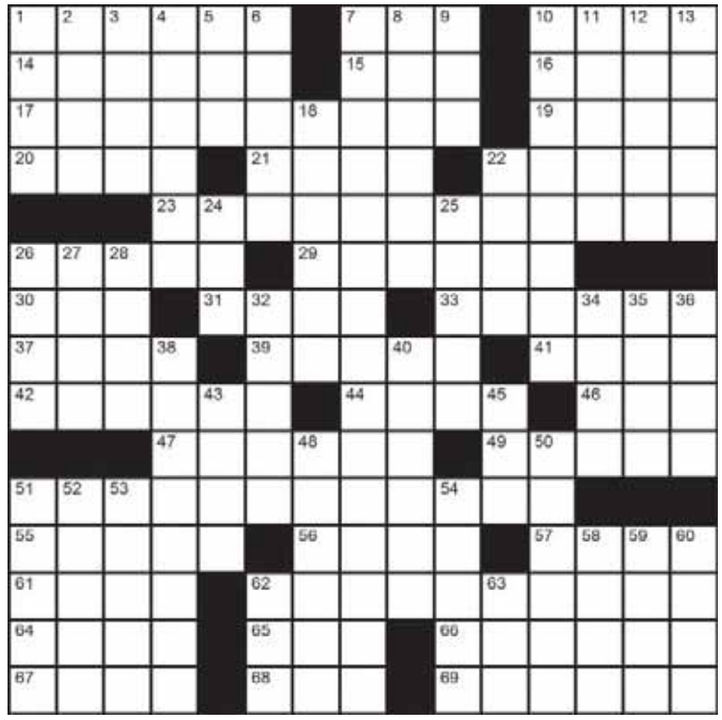
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Business bigwigs
7. Scand. land
10. 'N' in #15-Across' answer, briefly
14. Turkey's capital
15. Winnipeg Jets org.
16. Female 'friend' in France
17. Wearing very high-heeled shoes, say
19. Health club class
20. Diner beverage
21. Two-masted boat
22. Seize power
23. "Body's in Trouble" by Canadian singer/songwriter __ O'Hara
26. Perform like Magic Mike
29. "Only the __" by Roy Orbison
30. Canuck motorists org.
31. Leaky ink shape
33. Mitsou's message for her Cowboy: 2 wds.
37. Takes __ (Swims)
39. "And in the morning when __..." - Loggins & Messina
41. Chess piece
42. "The Blue __" by Johann Strauss Jr.
44. Be without
46. Pres. Eisenhower
47. On your marks, __ ...Go!
49. Stranded, castaway-style
51. Items obtained through hunting used to adorn traditional Inuit clothing: 2 wds.
55. Flexible
56. Spawned
57. Epochs
61. Sort of streambed
62. Can function independently - no accessories required
64. Actress Ms. Arden's
65. Nero's 151
66. Say "I'd like you to come."
67. Skin-care products suffix
68. Underworld goddess of Norse mythology
69. Lashed lieu

DOWN
1. Low music pitch
2. Not tricked: 2 wds.
3. Become traction-less
4. Deli selection
5. Prior, previously
6. Ancient companion for Dionysus
7. Trans-Canadian __ __ (Recreational traveller's winter route)
8. Jill of "The Love Boat"
9. Antiquity
10. One of the opinion that it can't be done
11. French Canadian singer, France D'__
12. Striped big cat ...mais en francais
13. Jumped
18. Songstress Ms. Swift
22. The __ Duckling
24. Police alert, commonly
25. Medieval bowed instrument
26. Large amount
27. "Presto!"
28. Particular precipitation
32. Eurythmics' "Would I __ __ You?"
34. Seethe
35. Oxen harness
36. Just managed, __ out
38. Boxing
40. Lustrous fabric
43. Lilith's portrayer on "Cheers"
45. Sewing collection
48. Nuanced
50. Delay or cancel
51. Made noise, crow-style
52. Plant source of tequila
53. Canadian band, Red __
54. "__ and the Cruisers" (1983) starring Tom Berenger
58. Churn
59. Not in favour
60. Plant's origin
62. Educ. institution
63. Whichever

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
If you think you cannot lose then you're halfway toward winning. A positive mental attitude is a must as you have so many things to do. You can never be optimistic enough.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Fortune will smile on you this week, especially if you think and act quickly. Your enthusiasm will impress people and increase the odds that you'll get a good offer. Self-belief plus hard work equals success.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You'll be a bit emotional today but that may be no bad thing. Some people think they can let you down and get away with it. Remind them actions have consequences.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You've realized that a certain person is no good for you, now let them know that your association is done. Don't worry about hurting their feelings — it's your feelings that matter.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
There'll be a lot of noise this week and you'll wish you could switch off the world. That isn't going to happen so invest in a good pair of headphones. Tune out the negativity.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You may be inclined to let false accusations about you pass but the planets warn if you do your reputation will suffer. Don't let anyone say bad things about you without an instant response. Stand up for yourself.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Before the end of the month you must get both your family and financial houses in order. What you change now will determine how much fun you have later.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Something will occur today that angers you a bit but don't let your feelings get out of control. And before you make any kind of accusations make sure that the facts are correct.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Follow your heart over the next few days or you could miss out. Where relationships are concerned, be more open and honest about how you feel. Don't be suspicious of passion, least of all your own.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Every word a certain individual says seems to rub you up the wrong way. Either stay away from them or let them know that they need to keep silent around you. The time for pleasantries is over.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
A friend is going through a hard time and you want to help them. Your best course of action is to keep your distance. Give them space to work things out for themselves.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Mix business with pleasure, but be careful the pleasure part of the equation does not take over completely. Get your work done first, then reward yourself with a night on the town.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

5					8	1		3
	9		7					
								4
	4		1	3				8
			4		9			
9				5	2		6	
1								
					6		8	
8		7	2					6

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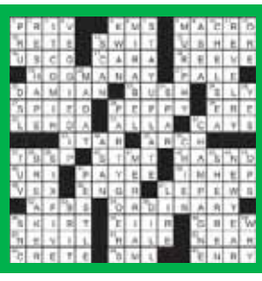
THURSDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



9	6	7	1	4	3	5	2	8
1	5	2	9	8	6	7	4	3
8	4	3	2	7	5	6	9	1
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2	7	4	8	6	9	1	3	5
5	9	1	7	3	2	4	8	6
6	2	5	3	9	7	8	1	4
4	3	9	5	1	8	2	6	7
7	1	8	6	2	4	3	5	9

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